



ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
**NICOLE PARRA**  
Representing the 30th Assembly District



## Parra Notes

February 22, 2007

Hello Friends,

I hope everyone had a wonderful President's Day weekend. This weekend I meet with Dave Christensen from the Gas Company and discussed the current state of freeze relief in Kern County. After some discussion, the Southern California Gas Company and I held a press conference today to announce a six week campaign to encourage private donations to provide relief to displaced farmworkers in Kern County.

The January freeze has caused over \$1 billion in damages to California's agriculture and displaced thousands of workers who depend on the industry to earn a living. In Kern County alone there are almost 500 people receiving unemployment benefits because of the damage caused by the freeze. With work continuing to slow the number of unemployed workers is expected to continue rising, and with it, the demand for assistance will rise as well.

The Legislature is doing everything we can to provide assistance to those who have lost their jobs as a result of the freeze, but there are limits to what we can do. I hope that our efforts help the Community Action Partnership in their efforts to provide relief for all victims of the freeze. For more information on how you can help visit <http://www.capk.org>.

---

### **This Week in Sacramento**

This week was busy since the legislative deadline to introduce new bills was today at 5 pm. Hundreds of bills are being introduced both in the Assembly and in the Senate. This year I will be carrying 31 bills that range from issues in public safety, water, and infrastructure. The following are some of the highlights of my legislative package.

#### **Meth Package**

AB 440 – This bill will bring penalties for dealing and transporting methamphetamine into line with other street drugs by eliminating the current one year “discount” they currently receive.

AB 441 – This bill will allow for a 3-5 year enhancement on any crime committed under the

influence of methamphetamine.

AB 442 – This bill would require an inmate convicted of charges related to methamphetamine to **successfully complete** a drug rehabilitation program prior to being eligible for parole.

.....  
**Important Notes for the Valley**

Also this week I meet with Jim Ghelmetti, the Vice Chair of the California Transportation Commission, (CTC). This commission is responsible for the distribution of millions of dollars for transportation projects throughout the state. They have a difficult task ahead and I wanted to make sure that projects in the Central Valley were included in the staff recommendations that were released late last week. I was pleased to see the \$12.5 million were recommended for approval for HWY 198 and the expansion of lanes. It is now important that we continue to track the progress of these and other projects as the allocation process continues. CTC is scheduled to vote on staff recommendations on Feb. 28 in Newport Beach. For more information about the California Transportation Commission, please visit <http://www.catc.ca.gov>

On Tuesday evening I had the honor of having dinner with **Attorney General Jerry Brown**. We discussed his goals for the coming year and some of the projects I am working on in the district. I look forward to working with him and hopefully bring him to the district very soon. For more information on the Attorney General's office, please visit <http://www.ag.ca.gov>

Earlier this year I was honored as **Legislator of the Year by American Electronic Association** (AeA). AeA was founded in 1943 and is a national non-profit trade association that represents several segments of the technology industry. AeA hosted a dinner in Sacramento to provide me with my award. I was joined by several members of their association including Bill Ashworth from Yahoo! Inc., Victor Arranaga, Jr. with Applied Materials, Inc., Pam Baich, National Semiconductor Corporation, Mike Foulkes with Apple Computer, Robyn Hines from Microsoft Corporation, Mavis Toscano from Sun Microsystems and Michelle Wright Conn with Cisco Systems, Inc. For more information, please visit <http://www.aeanet.org>

On Wednesday, I had a meeting with several Executives of the California Poultry Federation. We reviewed some of their concerns for the coming legislative year. Included in the discussion was an overview of the industry, and more importantly, the economic benefits stemming from California's expansive productivity in this sector of our larger agricultural economy. For more information, please visit <http://www.cpif.org>

**Craig Barto, President** of the California Independent Petroleum Association, and **John Martini**, the Association's **Chief Executive Officer**, stopped by to discuss ways in which oil production within the State of California offsets our dependence on foreign oil. We also discussed a number of efforts to curb carbon dioxide and other emissions, and I was truly excited about the extensive work the Association is doing to provide clean, efficient, and affordable transportation fuels for our State. Please visit <http://www.cipa.org> for more information.

---

## Committees

This week was also the beginning of Assembly Committee hearings. Committees of which I'm a member include Water Parks and Wildlife, Banking and Finance and Insurance held informational hearings.

In an informational hearing of the **Water Parks and Wildlife Committee**, rules and procedures for the coming year were reviewed, as well as a discussion on legislative priorities for the committees. I will continue working with **Chairwoman Lois Wolk** toward the passage of surface storage legislation, and will provide updates as the issue moves forward.

The **Assembly Committee Banking and Finance** had an organizational meeting where they voted on the rules for this committee and also discussed some of the major issues facing the banking industry. I am looking forward to working with **Chairman Ted Lieu** and others to ensure and equitable business climate for bankers and consumers alike.

The first meeting of the **Assembly Committee on Insurance** went much like the previous two, in that rules and procedures were ratified. In addition, **Chairman Joe Coto** gained my support of two measures being sponsored by the Committee. These dealt with unemployment insurance and the baseline years in which values were calculated, with the existing legislation being well out-of-date by more than a decade, and the second deals with earthquake insurance, and the minimizing of adverse effects on premiums due to remodeling or new construction. Both are good clean-up measures for the committee, and I am happy to support this clarification of current law.

---

## REMINDER: Assembly Committee on Agriculture Next Week

Next week the Assembly and Senate Agriculture Committee will hold their **joint informational hearing on Tuesday February 27<sup>th</sup>** at 1:30 in Sacramento, room 126 of the Capitol to discuss "Farming and the Environment: An Overview of the 2006 E. coli outbreak". The joint informational hearing will focus on discoveries from state and federal investigations, industry response and collaboration with government and academia, state and federal processes for regulating voluntary industry responses, and potential conflicts between farming and environmental enhancements.

---

## Freeze Relief Questions

As the months past it will be important to continue monitoring the long term impacts of the Freeze on our constituents. I hope folks will participate in the relief efforts over the next few weeks. If you would like more information about resources and status information on the Freeze contact my office.

For questions about assistance in Kings, Fresno, or Tulare Counties please contact Teresa

Plascencia at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at [Teresa.Plascencia@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Teresa.Plascencia@asm.ca.gov)

For questions about assistance in Kern County please contact Mina Tovar at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at [Mina.Tovar@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Mina.Tovar@asm.ca.gov)

---

### **When Visiting Sacramento**

As always, thank you to everyone who stops by my office. As a reminder, next time you find yourself in Sacramento stop by my new office and say hello. The office is now located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor in room 5155. If I'm unavailable please leave your business card with my staff and I will do my best to get in contact with you.

If you know anyone who would enjoy receiving Parra Notes please have them e-mail [Brandon Sanders](mailto:Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov) so they can be included in our distribution list.

---

### **Meeting Requests**

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Anna Goddard** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov).

---

### **Interns Wanted**

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: [Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov)

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at: [Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov)

For Sacramento office internships contact **Anna Goddard** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at: [Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov)

#### **Bakersfield Office:**

601 24th St.,  
Suite A  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

#### **Hanford Office:**

321 N. Douty St.,  
Suite B  
Hanford, CA 93230

#### **Capitol Office:**

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249

Phone: (661) 334-3745  
Fax: (661) 334-3796

Phone: (559) 585-7170  
Fax: (559) 585-7175

Phone: (916) 319-2030  
Fax: (916) 319-2130

**Email:** [Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov)

**Web Site:** <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

If you wish to no longer receive email notifications please click the following link to [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)  
If you wish to receive email updates in the future please click the following link to [SUBSCRIBE](#)